DATE OF THE PARTY SHERLOCK & HOLMES

By A. CONAN DOYLE. Author of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," The Hound of the Easkervilles," The Sign of the Four, "A Study in Scarlet," Erc.



BY F. D. STEELE

turned from the club exactly at 10.

His mother and sister were out spend-

ter the front room on the second floor.

generally used as his sitting room.

She had lit a fire, and as it smoked she

and her daughter. Desiring to say

son's room. The door was locked on

the inside, and no answer could be gut

to their cries and knocking. Help was

obtained and the door forced. The un-

near the table. His head had been hor-

Apparently therefore it was the

money or valuables in the room,

poor bibliophile.

them, "The Origin of Tree Worship,"

The Adventure of the Empty House

No. 1 of the Series

(Congress, 1912, to M. Conan Duylo and Collier's Weekly.)



nexulicable electronistances. The public ribly mutilated by an expanding rehas already learned those particulars of volver bullet, but no weapon of any the erime which came out in the roles | sort was to be found in the room. On Investigation, but a good deal was a up the male by two bank notes for flo up my books." massed upon that occasion, since the each and £17 10s, in sliver and gold, the muse for the prosecution was so over- money arranged in little piles of varywhelmingly strong that it was not nece ling amount. There were some figures easury to bring forward all the facts. also upon a sheet of paper, with the Onlynow, at the end of nearly ten years. | names of some club friends opposite to am I allowed to supply those missing them, from which it was conjectured links which make up the whole of that that before his death he was endeavorremarkable chain. The crime was of in- log to make out his losses or winnings terest in itself, but that interest was at cards, as nothing to me compared to the in- A minute examination of the circumconscivable sequel, which afforded me stances served only to make the case the greatest shock and surprise of any more complex. In the first place, no event in my adventurous life. Even reason could be given why the young now, after this long interval, I find my- man should have fastened the door self tarilling as I think of it and feel- upon the lastile. There was the possiing once more that sudden flood of Joy. bility that the nurderer had done this amazement and incredulity which ut and had afterward escaped by the winterly submerged my mind. Let me dow. The drop was at least twenty say to that public, which has shown feet, however, and a bed of crocuses in some interest in those glimpses which full bloom lay beneath. Neither the I have occasionally given them of the flowers nor the carth showed any sign thoughts and actions of a very remark- of baving been disturbed, nor were able man, dust they are not to blame there any marks upon the narrow strip me if I have not shared my knowledge of grass which separated the house with then; for I should have consider- from the road, ed it my first duty to have done so had I not been harred by a positive probi- young man blusself who had fastened bition from his own lips, which was the door. But how did he come by his only withdrawn upon the 3d of last death? No one could have climbed

It can be imagined that my close in- traces. Suppose a man had fired timacy with Sherlock Holmes had in- through the window, he would indeed terested me deeply in crime and that be a remarkable shot who could with after his disappearance I never failed a revolver inflict so deadly a wound. to read with care the various problems | Again, Park lane / a frequented thorwhich came before the public. And I oughture. There a cab stand within even attempted more than once for my a hundred yards of the house. No one lug out of that awful abyss?" own private satisfaction to employ his | had heard a shot. And yet there was | indifferent success. There was none, builet, which had mushroomed out, however, which appealed to me like as soft nosed bullets will, and so inthis tragedy of Ronnid Adalr. As I filefed a wound which must have caus- reappearance. read the evidence at the inquest, which ed instantaneous death. Such were against some person or persons un- mystery, which were further compliknown, I realized more clearly than I cated by entire absence of motive,

There were points about this strange business which would, I was sure, have forts of the police would have been some theory which could reconcile supplemented or more probably antici- them all and to find that line of least pated by the trained observation and resistance which my poor friend had At the risk of telling a twice told tale street end of Park lane. A group of were known to the public at the con- up at a particular window, directed me

clusion of the inquest.

The Hon, Ronald Adair was the second son of the Earl of Maynooth, at that time governor of one of the Australlan colonies. Adair's mother had returned from Australia to undergo the operation for cataract, and she, her son Ronald and her daughter Hilda were living together at 427 Park lane. The youth moved in the best society-had, so far as was known, no enemies and no particular vices. He had been enguged to Miss Edith Woodley of Carstairs, but the engagement had been broken off by mutual consent some months before, and there was no sign that it had left any very prefound feeling behind it. For the rest the man's life moved in a narrow and conventional circle, for his habits were quiet and life nature unemotional. Yet it was upon this easy going young aristocrat that death came in most strange and unexpected form between the hours of 10 and 10:20 on the night of March 30,

Ronald Adnir was fund of cards, playing continually, but never for such stakes as would hurt him. He was a member of the Buldwin, the Cavendish | Copright by Callier's Weekly, and the Bagatelle eard clais. If was It struck me that the fellow must be some shown that after dluner on the day of his death he had played a rubber of whilst at the latter club. He had also played there in the afternoon. The evidence of those who had played with hlm-Mr. Murray, Sir John Hardy and Colonel Moran-showed that the game was whist and that there was a fairly equal full of the carde, Adnir might have lost £5, but not more. His fortune was a considerable one, and such a loss could not in any way affect ldm. He had played nearly every day at one club or other, but he was a cautious player and usually rose a winner. It came out in evidence that in partnership with Colonel Moran he had actually won as much as £420 in a sitting some weeks before from Godfrey Milner and Lord Balmorat So much for his recent history as it came out at the

juquest. On the evening of the crime he re- spologize for the accident, but it was

My observations of 427 Park lane did little to dear up the problem in which I was interested. The house was separated from the street by a low wall and rading, the whole not more than five feet high. It was perfectly easy, therefore, for any one to get into the garden, but the window was entirely sible since there was no water pipe or anything which could help the active man to climb it. More purgled than ever, I retraced my steps to Kenkington. I had not been in my study five minutes when the maid ening the evening with a relative. The tered to may that a person desired to servant deposed that she heard him ensee me. To my astonishment it was none other than my strange old book oblicctor, his sharp, wisened face peerthe out from a frame of white hair, and had opened the window. No sound was his precious volumes, a dozen of them heard from the room until 11:29, the hour of the return of Lady Maynooth at least, wedged under his right arm, "You're surprised to see me, sir," said be in a strange, croaking voice,

good night, she attempted to enter her I neknowledged that I was. Well. I've a conscience, sir, and when I chanced to see you go into this house as I came hobbling after you, I thought to myself I'll just step in and fortunate young man was found lying see that kind pentleman and tell him that if I was a bit gruff in my manner there was not any harm meant and that I am much obliged to him for picking

You make too much of a tride," said "May I ask how you know who I

'Yes, sir. If it isn't too great a liberty I am a neighbor of yours, for you'll find my little bookshop at the corner of Church street, and very happy to see you, I am sure. Maybe you collect yourself, sir. Here's British Birds' and 'Catulhus' and 'The Holy War'-a bargain, every one of them. With five volumes you could just fill that gap on that second shelf. It looks untidy, does it not, air?"

I moved my head to look at the cabinet behind me. When I turned again Sherlock Holmes was standing smiling at me across my study table. I rose to my feet, stared at him for some seconds in after amazement, and then it appears that I must have fained for the first and the last time in my life. Certainly a gray must swirled before my eyes, and when it cleared I found my collar ends undone and the tingiling after-taste of brandy upon my lips. Holmes was bending over my chair, his dask in his hand.

"My dear Watson," said the well remembered voice, "I owe you a thouup to the window without leaving sand apologies. I had no idea that you would be so affected."

I gripped him by the arms, "Holmes!" I cried. "Is it really you? Can it indeed be that you are alive? Is it possible that you succeeded in climb

"Wait a moment," said he. "Are you methods in their solution, though with the dead man and there the revolver sure that you are really fit to discuss things? I have given you a serious shock by my unnecessarily dramatic

"I am all right, but indeed, Holmes, I led up to a verdict of willful murder the circumstances of the Park lane can hardly believe my eyes. Good heavens, to think that you-you of all men-should be standing in my study!" had ever done the loss which the com- since, as I have said, young Adair was Again I gripped him by the siceve and munity had sustained by the death of not known to have any enemy, and no felt the thin, shewy arm beneath it "Well, you're not a spirit anyhow said I. "My dear chap, I'm overloyed specially appealed to him, and the ef- my mind, endeavoring to hit upon You came alive out of that dreadful word that I seemed to hear Moriarty's chasm."

He sat opposite to me and lit a cigarette in his old nonchalant manner. the alert reind of the first criminal declared to be the starting point of He was dressed in the seedy frock cont out in my hand or my foot slipped in agent in Europe. All day as I drove every investigation. I confess that I of the book merchant, but the rest of upon my round I turned over the case | made little progress. In the evening that individual lay in a pile of white | that I was gone. But I struggled upin my mind and found no explanation I strolled across the park and found bair and old books upon the table. which appeared to me to be adequate. | myself about 6 o'clock at the Oxford | Holmes looked even thinner and knewer than of old, but there was a dead white I will recapituinte the facts as they loafers upon the pavements, all staring linge in his aquiline face which told seen in the most perfect comfort. There me that his life recently had not been a healthy one.

"I am glad to stretch myself, Wat- Investigating in the most sympathetic son," said he. "It is no joke when a and inefficient manner the circumtall man has to take a foot off his stances of my death. stature for several hours on end. Now, my dear fellow, in the matter of these explanations, we have, if I may ask for your co-operation, a hard and dangerous night's work in front of us. Perhaps it would be better if I gave you an account of the whole situation when reuce showed me that there were surthat work is finished."

much prefer to hear now." "You'll come with me tonight?"

"When you like and where you like." "This is, indeed, like the old days. We shall have time for a mouniful of dinner before we need go. Well, then, about that chasm. I had no serious difficulty in getting out of it for the very simple reason that I never was

"You never were in it?" "No. Watson, I never was in it. My note to you was absolutely genuine. I had little doubt that I had come to the end of my career when I perceived the somewhat sinister figure of the late Professor Moriarty standing upon the my escape. He had waited, and then. narrow pathway which led to safety. I read an inexorable purpose in his gray eyes. I exchanged some remarks to the house which I had come to see. with him, therefore, and obtained his A tail, thin man with colored glasses, courteous permission to write the short whom I strongly suspected of being a note which you afterward received. I plain clothes detective, was pointing left it with my eighrette box and my out some theory of his own, while the stick, and I valked along the puthway. others crowded around to listen to Moriarty still at my heels. When I what he said. I got as near him as I could, but his observations seemed to me to be absurd, so I withdrew again in some disgust. As I did so I struck. against an elderly, deformed man who and was only anxious to revenge himhad been behind me, and I knocked down several books which he was carrying. I remember that as I picked them up I observed the title of one of and it struck me that the fellow must be some poor bibliophile who either as a trade or as a hobby was a collector ly for a few seconds and clawed the air certainty that no one in the world assured step through a petwork of of obscure volumes. I endeavored to with both his bands. But for all his knew what had become of me. efforts he could not get his balance,

spirshed into the water."

twees the pulls of his eigarette. the path and none returned."

stant that the professor had disare being my secret. For that reason I stly was not the only take that surnerse and emelled upon your part sters and since closes, its. Ask today

exident that these books which I had those others where the property dight have drawn attention to my three others whose distre for same | identity and led to the most deportable time for me to announce that I was for two years in Thet, therefore, and troutstill in the land of the living. So rapids amused muself by visiting Lesan and by does the brain act that I believe I spending some days with the bend had thought this all out before Profess. Inma. You may have read of the re-

> the Reichenbach full. with great interest some months later. Meeca and paid a short but interesting Victor, vinshing furiously, you assert that the wall was sheer, wish to the shallfu at Khartum, the re-That was not literally crue. A few suits of which I have communicated small footbolds presented themselves, to the foreign office. Recursing to and there was some indication of a France, I spent some menths in a remy way along the wet path without Having concluded this to my satisfact sportstant," leaving some tracks. I might, it is true, then med learning that only one of my have reversed my boots, as I have done senemies was now left in London, I was on similar occasions, but the night of about to return when my movements three sets of tracks in one direction | were hastened by the news of this very would certainly have suggested a de- remachable Port lane mystery, which best that I should risk the climb. It most because which seemed to other some built that way, was not a pleasant business. Warsen, most peculiar personal opportunities.

wall behind me. In your picturesque receiving news of your friend. I then king is." recount of the matter, which I read passed through Persia, looked in at beinge. The cliff is so high that to climb search into the coal tar derivatives. I suppose the Lord thought it was it all was an obvious impossibility, which I conducted in a laboratory at enough to make him a king withoutand it was equally impossible to make Montpellier, in the south of France ; unking him at the same time a

One on Vistor. so unfortunately maitreated were very since upon me would only be increased by the death of sheir leader. They were all most dangerous mea. One for other turned upon his heel, and I saw his curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged.

The curved back and white side whiskers band, if all the world was chavinged. that I was dead they would take liber. on well as a had hoped, for the trial of | was returning home with three perch. ties, these men; they would soon lay the Morlarty gang left two of its most | ne bigger than sprate in his bag, when themselves open, and somer or later I dangerous members, my own nest who he met a peasant who had been tencould destroy them. Theo it would be dictive enemies, at liberty I traveled ing and had caught several splendid

> "Well, neighbor, I see you havn't caught many, said the peasant, with or Moriarty had reached the bottom of | markable explorations of a Norwegian | a laugh, "yet I don't see why, for they finmed Sigerson, but I am sure that it are biting good today. I guesa you "I stood up and examined the rocky never occurred to you that you were gra the same kind of a fisherman our

"What do you mean?" saked King

"Oh," replied the peacant, "we all know him. He thinks himself a great sportsman, but he's no good at fishing.

Reflections of a Qachelor.

When you hear a girl has applyations to be a great actress it is a sign ception. On the whole, then, it was not only approved to me by its own she may get in the chorus if she is

A woman calls her spungeter cure The fall round beneath me. I am not a I came over at once to Loudon, called when he no got your one with his fitter, an expects you to be tickled to

atenta ever II. It makes a man feel awful funny to have a girl's mother come into the reem and act as if she thought the long hair on his cost was his own. The reason women can't believe

men have souls is that they don't get any more excited over baby's new tooth than over a stock market panie. A woman can guess at the amount of flour she ought to put in the bis-

cult and hit it off every time but you can never make her see the same rule work work with catching trains .-New York Press.

Self Evident.

The boy with the grimy countenance leaned over the backyard fence and made faces at the boy with the now suit of clothes, whose father was a soapmaker. .

"Hoh!" he said. "Yer dad's soap paid for them clothests

"That's all right, dirty face," rosponded the other coy. "Your dad didn't help pay fur 'em.-Chicago Tri-



Before Mother's Friend was introduced. The older the prospective mother be e more difficult the ordeal through hich she must pass before she experiices the glory of the maternal state.

This was true before Mother's Friend

ras introduced, but now tangible evience in the shape of countless mothers of advanced years who have used with entire success forces us to giadly efute the integrity of this statement. Old or young, the result is the same, It is simply indispensable during the

rturient state, and absolutely lavaluble at the crucial time. For external massage, easy and uple to apply, wonderful in its effect, it surely is a living monument to the truth of that old adage, "What's in a name (" We reply, "simply Mother's Friend." \$1 00, at all druggists. Send for book, "Motherhood." It is free. Bradfield Regulator Co., ATLANTA, GA.

The Financial World SAMPLE COPY PREE

OPEN YOUR EYES of criminal London, but I was well as tol confely may Rails and, 641, Plantation, Mila, Languistal Stacks or Bonds, in which know beintered of Assembly core which pet if. Financial workly, an auditor Dide, Champs.





KILL THE COUCH AND CURE THE LUNCS **** Dr. King's New Discovery

TONSUMPTION Price OUGHS and 50c 5 31.00

Surest and Galekest Care for all THROAT and LUNG TROUD LES, OF MONEY BACK.

From Itching and Bleeding Eczema -Pain Terrible - Body and Face Covered with Sores - Doctors and Medicines Failed.

ANOTHER WONDERFUL CURE BY CUTICURA

No tongue can tell how I suffered for five years with itching and bleed-ing cozems, until I was cared by the Cuticura Remedies, and I am so grateful I want the world to know, for what helped me will help others. My body and face were covered with sores. One day it would seem to be better, One day it would seem to be better, and then break out again with the most terrible pain and itehlog. I have been sick several times, but never in my life did I experience such awful suffering as with this criema. I had made up my mind that death was near at hand, and I lorged for that time when I would be at real. when I would be at rest. many different doctors and medicine without success, and my mother brought me the Cuticura Remedies, insisting that I try them. I began to feel better after the first bath with Cuticura Soap, and one application of Cuticura Ointment. I continued with the Scap and Ointment, and have taken four bottles of Cutienra Resolvent, and consider myself well. Any person having any doubt about this wonderful cure by the Cuticurs Remedies can write to my address. Mrs. Altie Eison, Bellevue, Mich."

ITCHING ECZEMA And All Other Itching and Scaly Eruptions Cured by Cutlcura.

The agentzing itching and burning of the skin, as in eczema; the fright ful scaling, as in paorians; the loss of hair and crusting of scalp, as in scalled head; all demand a remedy of almost superhuman virtues to successfully cope with them. That Curicura Soap, Cintment, and Fills are such stands proven beyond all doubt. Corlowes Source, Olistowest, and Phile are middlessed. On worst, Process Drag a Chronic Courty, Buston, Proprieture, May Stand Say of Show in Cury Excessed.

·三、京、京、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、日、 GUTHRIE NEAT PRESSING CLUB clothes Cleaned and Pressed

- allowing you one suit a week -tor \$1.00 per monto. Ladies' Clothes given special attention. Suits from \$15.00 on up.

ERNEST B. METZ

Guthrie, Okla.



You will never know what a really good five cent cigar is like urtil you smoke Fritz Bros. Best.

> OLSMITH has them.

Lewis & Clark



EXPOSITION

Portland, Ore., June 1 to Oct. 15. Tickets sold on following days only TO INVESTOR OR SPECULATOR CAN BE STRUCT this further manufal paper and its take further manufal paper and its take further for the paper to longe the distinct at the latest frame in the paper of the further further further form the frame false. He species rather flames to 17, 28 and 25, July 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 13, 13, 13 all its follow and traps. It is independent as it all its follow and traps. It is independent as it as it is followed for the further further forms and the further forms of the further forms and the further forms of the further further forms of the further further forms of the further forms of the further forms of the further further forms of the further forms of the further further further forms of the further furthe 20 and 31; September 12, 13 14 15, 27, 28and 2s Final limits 90 days. Stopovers allowed west of and includ. ing Colorado common points. Fare \$49.10.

> Fare through California \$60:10. F. J. BEST, Ast.

We are "buttin' in 'the button business Lodges Societies Churchse



Rennians advert'se

Only first class outfit in the Write for sample territories and get prices.

Armantrout Bros. Guthrie, Okla.

SS ADAMS ST.CHICAGO

Daily League 10 ports a week of lat ered every day except Sunday.

GAS! GAS! GAS!

We sell Gas Ranges and Hot Plates at cost and connect them free simply to encourage the use of GAS,

the brink I saw him fall for a long way. that it should be thought I was into Mauchester street and so to Blund-Then he struck a rock, bounded off and | dead, and it is quite certain that you ford street. Here he turned swiftly

All day I turned these facts over in to see you. Sit down and tell me how funciful person, but 1 give you my in my own person at Baker street, threw Mrs. Hudson into violent hysteries and found that Mycroft had prevoice screaming at me out of the abyss. served my rooms and my papers exact-A mistake would have been faral. More than once as tufts of grass came ly as they had always been. So it was, my dear Watson, that at 2 o'clock today I found myself in my old armthe wet notches of the rock I thought chair in my own old room and only wishing that I could have seen my old ward, and at last I reached a ledge friend Watson in the other chair which several feet deep and covered with he has so often adorned." soft green moss, where I could lie un-

Such was the remarkable parrative

to which I listened on that April even-

ing, a narrative which would have

been utterly incredible to me had it not

been confirmed by the actual sight of

SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS STANDING SMILING AT ME.

making his way around to the top of I knew not what wild beasts we were

the tall, spare figure and the keen, eager face, which I had never thought to "At last, when you had all formed see again. In some manner he had your inevitable and totally erroneous learned of my own sad bereavement. conclusions, you departed for the hotel, and his sympathy was shown in his and I was left alone. I had imagined manner rather than in His words, that I had reached the end of my ad-"Work is the best antidote to sorrow, ventures, but a very unexpected occurmy dear Watson," said he, "and I have a piece of work for us both tonight prises still in store for me. A huge "I am full of curiosity. I should rock, falling from above, boomed past which if we can bring it to a succession ful conclusion will in itself justify a me, struck the path and bounded over man's life on this planet." In valu I into the chasm. For an instant I begged him to tell me more. "You will thought that it was an accident, but a hear and see enough before morning. moment later, looking up, I saw a he answered. "We have three years of man's head against the darkening sky, the past to discuss. Let that suffice naand another stone struck the very ledge upon which I was stretched til half past to when we start moon the notable adventure of the empty house." within a foot of my head. Of course It was indeed like old times when at the meaning of this was obvious. Mothat home I found myself scated beside riarty had not been alone. A confederate-and even that one glance had told blur in a hansom, my revolver in my me how dangerous a man that confedpocket and the thrill of adventure is evate was-had kept guard while the my beart. Holmes was cold and stern professor had attacked me, From a and allest. As the gleam of the street distance, unseen by me, he had been a lamps finished upon his austere features witness of his friend's death and of I saw that his brows were drawn down in thought and his thin lips compressed

I was stretched when you, my dear

Watson, and all your following were

Copyright by Collier's Weekly

the cliff, he had endeavored to succeed about to hunt down in the dark jungle where his comrade had failed. "I did not take long to think about it, sured from the bearing of this master Watson. Again I saw that grim face huntsman that the adventure was a look over the cliff, and I knew that it most grove one, while the sardenic was the precursor of another stone. I scrambled down on to the path. I his ascetic gloom boded little good for

reached the end I stood at bay. He don't think I could have done it in cold drew no weapon, but he rushed at me | blood. It was a hundred times more | for Baker street, but Holmes stopped and threw his long arms around me. difficult than getting up. But I had no the cab at the corner of Covendish He knew that his own game was up | time to taluk of the danger, for an square. I observed that as he stepped other stone sang past me as I hung by out he gave a lise t searching giance to self upon me. We tottered together my bands from the edge of the ledge, right and left and at every subsequent upon the brink of the fall. I have some | Halfway down I slipped; but, by the street corner be took the utmost pains knowledge, however, of basitsu, or the blessing of God, I landed, toen and to assure that he was not followest. Japanese system of wrestling, which bleeding upon the path. I took to my Our route was certainly a singular one has more than once been very useful heels, did tan miles over the mount Holmes' knowledge of the byways of to me. I slipped through his grip, and I tains in the darkness, and a week later London was extraordinary, and on this be with a horrible acream kicked mad- I found myself in Florence, with the occasion he passed rapidly and with an

"I had only one couldnut-my brother Mycroft. I owe you many apologies, emerged at last into a small road lined and over he went. With my face over my dear Watson, but it was all impor with old, gloomy houses which led us would not have written so convincing down a narrow passage, passed through I lismood with amazement to this ex- an account of my amhappy end had you a wooden gate into a deserted yard and planation, which Holmes delivered be not yourself thought that it was true, then opened with a key the back door Several times during the last three of a house. We entered together, and "But the tracks!" I cried. "I saw years I have taken up my pen to write he closed it behind us. with my own eyes that two went down to you, but always I feared lest your affectionate regard for one should tempt "It came about in this way. The in- you to some indiscretion which would

(To be continued top errow

mews and stables the very existence

of which I had never known. We

smile which occasionally broke through

I had imagined that we were bound

the object of our quest.

Ask Your Dealer for Allen's Fact East. peared it struck use what a really eme turned away from you this evening A powder for the feet. It egges smollen traordinarily tucky change fate had when you noted my books, for I was in Sere. Het. College. Aching. Securing placed in my way. I know that More danger at the time, and any show of Feet. Corns and Inchess. At all broad-